

<b>Children and Young People Select Committee</b>			
<b>Title</b>	Independent Advice and Guidance in Secondary Schools: Scoping Paper	<b>Item No</b>	4
<b>Contributors</b>	Scrutiny Manager		
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	<b>Date</b>	20 October 2015

## **1. Purpose of paper**

- 1.1 As part of its work programme the Committee has agreed to undertake an in-depth review into independent advice and guidance (IAG) in secondary schools including special schools, Pupil Referral Units and post 16 and alternative education providers for children and young people in years 8 - 13.
- 1.2 This paper sets out the rationale for the review, provides some background information on the work that has already been carried out in relation to this topic within Lewisham and sets out proposed terms of reference for discussion and agreement by the Committee.
- 1.3 The in-depth review process is outlined at Appendix A.

## **2. Recommendations**

The Select Committee is asked to:

- note the content of the report
- consider and agree the proposed key lines of enquiry for the review, outlined in section 7 and the timetable, outlined in section 8.

## **3. Policy context**

- 3.1 The Council's overarching vision is "Together we will make Lewisham the best place in London to live, work and learn". In addition to this, ten corporate priorities and the overarching Sustainable Community Strategy drive decision making in the Council. Lewisham's corporate priorities were agreed by full Council and they remain the principal mechanism through which the Council's performance is reported.
- 3.2 The Council's corporate policy of "Young people's achievement and involvement" promotes raising educational attainment and improving facilities for young people through working in partnership. The priority of "strengthening the local economy" includes a focus on strengthening employment skills. The Council's Sustainable Community Strategy's priority of "Ambitious and Achieving" aims to create a borough where people are inspired and supported to achieve their potential.

- 3.3 The Education Act 2011<sup>1</sup> requires schools to secure access to independent careers guidance for learners in years 8-13. Careers guidance must be presented in an impartial manner and promote the best interests of the learners to whom it is given. According to Department for Education<sup>2</sup>, young people who are uncertain or unrealistic about career ambitions are three times more likely to spend significant periods of time not in education, employment or training (NEET). Providing improved careers services ensures young people select pathways that are most suitable for their individual circumstances, aspirations and potential.
- 3.4 Destination measures for those in Year 11, 12 and 13 are published by the Department for Education quarterly. Having a low number of NEET young people can be used as one measure of a successful IAG strategy. Understanding the Lewisham NEET figures including those amongst vulnerable young people such as Looked After Children, Care Leavers and those with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities can help form a more thorough assessment as to whether there are any gaps or discrepancies in IAG provision to young people. Full analysis of destinations statistics could also help to assess provision including university destinations and training courses and employment.
- 3.5 The changes as a result of Raising the Participation Age, introduced in September 2013, mean that all young people have been under a duty to participate in education or training until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 years old. From this year (September 2015) this rises to the year in which they turn 18. It is vitally important that these young people have the right advice to help them secure their future employment, training and education prospects.

#### **4. Lewisham Career Guidance Peer Review 2015 -16**

- 4.1 A Lewisham Careers Guidance Peer Review 2015-16 (attached as Appendix B) is currently being undertaken by the 14-19 Strategy Team in the Children and Young People Directorate in partnership with the Lewisham IAG Forum<sup>3</sup>. It is being undertaken to support senior leaders, managers and governors in schools and colleges to meet their statutory duty to secure careers advice for all those in years 8 -13.
- 4.2 The peer review will help monitor and support schools in delivering their IAG strategy and promote and highlight good practice. Full information on this review, including the work being undertaken and the review's priorities, aims and objectives will be presented to the committee as part of their first evidence session in November.

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<sup>1</sup> See: [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/pdfs/ukpga\\_20110021\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/pdfs/ukpga_20110021_en.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/440795/Careers\\_Guidance\\_Schools\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/440795/Careers_Guidance_Schools_Guidance.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> The Lewisham Schools and Colleges IAG Forum is open to representatives working with schools, colleges or other relevant agencies in Lewisham with responsibility for Careers Education and IAG. It has been established since 2010. The Forum meets periodically and runs an annual Conference to share policy and good practice.

- 4.3 The Local Authority continues to support and monitor schools to deliver their statutory duty and still retains the duty to support vulnerable young people including Looked After Children, Care Leavers, Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Youth Offenders, Teenage Pregnant and Teenage Parent Learners with Learning Disabilities and/or Disabilities (LLDD).<sup>4</sup>

## **5. Working in collaboration with Young Advisors**

- 5.1 This scrutiny review by the Children and Young People Select Committee will aim to work in a way that takes into account the views of, and works in collaboration with representatives from, the Young Advisors panel at every stage of the review process.
- 5.2 Being a matter of such importance to young people and where the service users are entirely made up of young people in years 8 -13; using the expertise of the Young Advisors will help ensure that the review is pertinent, representative and can reach sensible conclusions that will improve the outcome for these young people. The review will draw on their experiences and expertise and ability to engage with their peers. Following discussions with the Young Advisors, The current Young Mayor and another Young Advisor have been selected to be involved in the whole review process including commenting on evidence and suggesting lines of enquiry.

## **6. Meeting the criteria for a review**

- 6.1 A review into Information and Guidance in schools meets the criteria for carrying out a scrutiny review, because:
- it is a strategic and significant issue
  - scrutiny can add value in this area
  - a scrutiny review would be timely as it could link into the current Lewisham Career Guidance Peer Review (as outlined in section 4).

## **7. Key lines of enquiry (KLOE)**

- 7.1 It is suggested that the review covers the following key lines of enquiry:

### **7.2 Analysis of legislation and statutory duties**

- What is the legal framework for the provision of IAG?

### **7.3 Assessment of Current situation in Lewisham including examples of best practice and work of the peer review**

- What is the purpose and aims of the peer review?
- What is the NEET strategy and how does the IAG strategy work with this?
- What is available for the most vulnerable young people? How are they being supported and is the service they are getting tailored to their needs?

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<sup>4</sup>See: [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/349300/Participation\\_of\\_Young\\_People\\_Statutory\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/349300/Participation_of_Young_People_Statutory_Guidance.pdf)

- How does the Council's apprenticeship and work experience programmes support the IAG strategy?
- What does an analysis of destinations and NEET data tell us that can help improve outcomes for young people?
- Are there any funding constraints and how do we ensure value for money?

#### 7.4 **Working closely with young advisors to carry out focus groups**

- How do we ensure that the experiences of young people in the borough are drawn upon to help shape best practice and support offered?
- What are the disparities between service provided at different schools or to those with different needs?

#### 7.5 **Good practice and experience from partner organisations and young people**

- What are the best schools/local authorities doing in this area?
- Are there examples of innovative ways of working?
- What are the concerns of stakeholders and partner organisations?
- Are there specific issues for vulnerable young people that are not being addressed?
- Where are there examples from schools, colleges, educational establishments or Local Authorities where the IAG strategy is successful and working well and what can we learn from those?
- What additional resources are available to IAG providers to help them improve their offer?

### 8. **Timetable**

- 8.1 The Committee is asked to consider the outline timetable for the review set out below. It is suggested that two evidence sessions are held, one focussing on the work being carried out in Lewisham including the peer review; and one focussing on good practice elsewhere and detailed information and evidence from stakeholders on challenges of ensuring that any strategy works successfully for all young people including the most vulnerable. In addition to this there would be visits/focus groups to a number of schools within the borough, working closely with the Young Advisors and the 14-19 Strategy team.

#### **First evidence-taking session (18 November 2015)**

To address the KLOE outlined in paragraphs 7.2 and 7.3.

*What is Lewisham doing and how effective is this?*

1. Receiving a written report from officers providing information on the following:
  - The statutory basis for the provision of IAG, including the Education Act 2011 provisions
  - The role of Schools/Governing bodies/Local Authorities
  - The additional support available to vulnerable young people
  - The Lewisham IAG, Employability and Skills Framework
  - The Lewisham Careers Guidance Peer Review

- The Lewisham NEET tracking team, including an analysis of NEET and destination statistics
  - The Lewisham Apprenticeship programme.
2. Questioning officers on the report.

**Interim visits/focus groups** (November 2015 – January 2016)

To address the KLOE outlined at paragraph 7.4 and 7.5.

- Working with the 14-19 Team and Young Advisors to carry out visits to / focus groups with, young people in Lewisham schools, PRUs and alternative education providers.

**Second evidence-taking session** (12 January 2016)

*Best Practice and evidence*

To address the KLOE outlined at paragraph 7.5.

1. Receiving verbal and written evidence from organisations such as: London Councils Young Peoples Education and Skills Board; Lewisham Virtual Headteacher; National Careers Services; Job Centre Plus; Lewisham IAG Forum; Cegnet; Youth Aid.
2. Considering good practice and experience from partner organisations as outlined in section 7.5.

**Recommendations and final report** (March 2016)

- Considering a final report presenting all the evidence taken and agreeing recommendations for submission to Mayor & Cabinet.

**9. Further implications**

- 9.1 At this stage there are no specific financial, legal, environmental or equalities implications to consider. However, each will be addressed as part of the review.

## **Background Papers**

Careers Guidance and Inspiration in schools, Department of Education, March 2015  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/440795/Careers\\_Guidance\\_Schools\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/440795/Careers_Guidance_Schools_Guidance.pdf)

London Ambitions: Shaping a successful careers offer to all young Londoners  
<http://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/londonambitionscareers>

Education Act (2011) <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/21/contents/enacted>

Participation of Young People in education, employment or training; Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities (Department of Education September 2014)  
[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/349300/Participation\\_of\\_Young\\_People\\_Statutory\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/349300/Participation_of_Young_People_Statutory_Guidance.pdf)

<http://www.cegnet.co.uk/>

<https://www.youthconnexions-hertfordshire.org/careers/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/participation-in-education-training-and-employment-age-16-to-18--2>

For further information please contact Katie Wood, Scrutiny Manager on 020 8314 9446

## Appendix A

# How to carry out an in-depth review

